

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 13, 2001**

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, who desires us to receive Your word, be with us today, here in Congress and across this great Nation. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that with diversity and creative willingness we may find ways to express deep human concerns and yet uncover true wisdom. Thereby, You will guide us in important decisions and impact our future.

May our native differences and historical experiences provide us with insight and an inner freedom so that we discover new avenues to reach consensus and realize Your power at work in each of us.

Grant freedom of speech to peoples everywhere that the cacophony of voices may give You glory and bring all to a deeper understanding that in You we are already one, You the one who was, who is, and who will be the same now and forever. Amen.

**THE JOURNAL**

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TANCREDO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**A MAJOR VICTORY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE**

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased here this morning to announce that the Republicans in Congress have passed legislation which President Bush has signed into law to provide all taxpayers some money, an immediate tax rebate check.

Because Republicans believe that surplus tax dollars are better spent by the American people than the Washington bureaucrats up here, you will all be receiving a rebate check in the next few weeks: \$600 for married couples, \$500 for head of households, and \$300 for single taxpayers.

Now, this is real money. It is money taken out of Washington put into the hands of families who need it and deserve it. After all, it is their money.

The Treasury Department will start sending letters out to every taxpayer in America explaining when you will receive your tax rebate check and how much you will receive. You can go on the Internet and find out. If you want to, you can call my office and we will give you the Internet site.

Rebate checks will be mailed over a 10-week period at a rate of 10 million checks per week starting in July. Taxpayers will receive their check according to their Social Security number.

Mr. Speaker, it is their money. The taxpayers should be the ones spending it on car payments, mortgage, saving for college, school supplies and clothing for their children, a new washer, a dryer, on energy bills and gasoline.

**CHINA SHIPPING WEAPONS TO CUBA**

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the State Department now admits that China and Cuba have signed a military agreement, and China is shipping weapons into Cuba. But the State Department said, and I quote, "we are not sure if those weapons are lethal". Unbelievable. Every American knows those are not 4th of July fireworks that China is shipping to Cuba, Mr. Speaker.

Think about it. China is now selling weapons to Cuba. Castro hates America. Cuba is 90 miles away from America. Beam me up. What is next? A Chi-

nese missile 90 miles away from the United States of America. I yield back the next bay of dragons in America's history.

**RECOGNIZING POQUOSON HIGH SCHOOL**

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a group of students from Virginia's First District who recently set international standards in demonstration of their creative problem-solving skills.

Earlier this month, representatives from Poquoson High School joined with fellow students from around the globe to compete for international prestige in a contest of ingenuity.

In exercising their talents, these Virginia students not only captured a first place world ranking, but also set a world record through their success at the Odyssey of the Mind's World Competition.

In their rise to confront challenge, Mr. Speaker, these students demonstrated their ability to think critically, to work cooperatively, and to overcome obstacles. Their vigor and success distinguishes our education system in its ability to cultivate the talents of our youth.

In this, it is my desire that these accomplishments of these students be recognized and thus be a testament to the positive role of education in preparing students as emerging leaders.

**INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS**

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, along with 34 cosponsors, I am reintroducing the bill to establish Individual Development Accounts on a national level. They already exist in several States, including Pennsylvania.

IDAs allow working poor families to save and invest and receive matching contributions from their financial institutions. They can be withdrawn and used only to buy a home, start a small business, or get higher education. Finally, after decades of government-funded poverty, we are encouraging poor and working poor Americans to provide for themselves and plan for their futures.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.